

Newark



Updated: September 1, 1987

OBJECTIVE: To create a photo-documentary of one day in the life of City of Newark. We will develop a positive portrait of the city's people and places.

A. Synopsis

We have created an ad hoc group for the purpose of expediting this project. The photographers are from the New Jersey/New York area. They include professionals, amateurs and students. Shooting date: Thursday, September 10, 1987. Shooting time: twenty-four hours, 12 AM Thurs.-12 AM Friday

B. Participation by photographers

Photographers will select shooting time feasible to their schedules. It is not necessary to shoot the entire twenty-four hours. We ask that photographers submit 10 8X10 glossy Black and White prints and five duped slides on October 15. We also request one Special Project, due at exhibit time, that reflects your artistic interests. The Special Project can be a collage, an oversized color print, silkscreen, etc.

C. Exhibiting

We plan to exhibit the work next year at an exhibit in Newark. We are trying to locate a gallery in the city that can accommodate an exhibit of this size. The Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture has offered exhibit space for a preview of the show in February, 1988. We have tentatively planned to feature a portraiture selection from the work we collect.

D. Funding

Eastman Kodak will donate film, and possibly processing, to each of the photographers. We have also petitioned the Newark Municipal Council for funding.

E. Photographers

Manuel Acevedo/Newark, Flora Baldwin/Newark, David Booker/Newark, Leon Bolden/East Orange, Earl Brown/Newark, Lawrence Cocco/Montclair, Jim Edmonds/Newark, Don Farkas/Newark, Glen Frieson/Newark, Barry Gray/Irvington, Dennis Gray/East Orange, Eugene Guerrera/Trenton, Samir Id'Deen/Newark, Eddie Johnson Jr./Newark, Bill Massey, William May/Montclair, Felix Middleton/Newark, Sandie Morgan/Brooklyn, Ken Murray/Ocean Township, Mansa K. Mussa/Newark, Pam Owen/Newark, Rashad/Newark, David Reeve/Newark, Mitchell Seidel/Newark, Cameron J. Tillery/Newark, Debra Willis-Ryan/Manhattan, Sule Greg Wilson/Queens, Christine Vogel/Newark.

BOARD OF SUPPORTERS



▶ A PHOTO-DOCUMENTARY ◀

▲ CURATORS AND ORGANIZERS: Eddie Johnson, Jr. and Mansa K. Mussa ▲

NEWARK

Newark



Newark. My hometown.

When I think of Newark a thousand vivid images ricochet through my mind. Wide boulevards, country folk, rock hard, beautiful sisters, Springfield Avenue, Penn Station, Broad and Market. The Big Town.

One of my colleagues, Eddie Johnson Jr., approached me and asked if I would be interested in a photo-documentary focusing on the city of Newark. I had also been thinking about a similar project and knew there were several other photographers interested in such a project.

We subsequently met at Georges Restaurant and began to formalize our plans. We decided on a one-day opus that would capture the vitality of Newark's people and places. The usual and unusual, the highlights and lowlights. Our portrait would be a positive and strong image of a city on the move.

As we developed the project we began to understand that our efforts would have to be a labor of love if we were to succeed. We formed an ad hoc group of local photographers who were interested in shooting for free and who would be willing to exhibit the work in a show next year.

Our next endeavor was to find a group of people in the city who could support our plan serving as a Board of Supporters. Their function would be to act as an advisory board and assist us in securing some of the services available in the city.

The end result of our project will be an exhibit that we hope will travel around the city, a poster, a video and a publication if possible. These are lofty goals, but it is our hope that we can accomplish them with the help of our Board of Supporters.

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Newark

FACT SHEET



Updated: June 25, 1987

OBJECTIVE: To create a photo-documentary of one day in the life of the City of Newark. We want to develop a positive portrait of the city's people and places, the usual and unusual.

A. Synopsis

We have created an ad hoc group for the purpose of expediting this project. The photographers are from the New Jersey/New York area. They include professionals, amateurs and students.

Shooting date: Thursday, September 10, 1987. Rain date Sept. 17.
Shooting time: twenty-four hours.

B. Participation by photographers

You do not have to shoot the entire 24 hours. Select times feasible to your schedule.

We ask that you submit 10 8 X 10 glossy Black & White prints and five duped slides on October 15, 1987.

We also request one Special Project. A collage, or oversized color print. Something special that you have created. This will not be due until exhibit time.

Try to attend the Supporters meeting in July.

C. Exhibiting

We are trying to locate a place in the city that can accomodate an exhibit of this size. Our planned exhibit time is the Spring of 1988. The Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture has offered us space for 25 pieces. We also plan to have a video presentation at the exhibit and we are researching possibilities for a published work.

D. Funding

We have no funding at this time. We have solicited the major film companies for supplies. If there are any materials received from corporations we will distribute them equally amongst the group.

E. Identification

Prior to the shooting day you will receive a "Day In The City" ID badge. You will need to supply us with a passport size photo.

◀ A PHOTO-DOCUMENTARY ▶

▲ CURATORS AND ORGANIZERS: ED JOHNSON, JR. AND MANSA K. MUSSA ▲

Newark



BOARD OF SUPPORTERS

July 16, 1987

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Art Department
Newark Public Library

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Jersey City State
College

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Newark, N.J.

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Newark Public Library

Donna Drew
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New York, N.Y.

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Newark, N.J.

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Rutgers University
Newark, N.J.

Anthony Spadone
Essex County Dept. of
Parks, Recreation and
Cultural Affairs

Alfred Gallman
Gallman's Newark Dance
Theatre

Mark Crumpton
WBCO
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Celeste Bateman
Dept. of Cultural Affairs
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Charles F. Cummings
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Chairwoman of the Board
Urban Voices

◀ A PHOTO-DOCUMENTARY ▶

▲ CURATORS AND ORGANIZERS: Eddie Johnson, Jr. and Mansa K. Mussa ▲



Eddie Johnson Jr.

The 1987 year has been an exciting one for me thus far. I had my first One-Man Photography Exhibition during Black History Month at Essex County Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs. Currently employed at Mount Sinai Medical Center in New York as an Electron Microscopist in research, I am also free-lancing for two dance companies, Gallman's Newark Dance Theatre and the Brooklyn based International Afrikan-American Ballet. I am presently an active participant in Initiative Newark which is a grass-roots leadership program for the city of Newark. and is sponsored by the Newark Collaboration Group.

While growing up in Newark my mom placed me in environments where people were very creative and had strong personalities, her personality being one of them. I chose to continue my creative upbringing while in high school and especially in college. My main support and social grooming come from people like my mom, Mansa, Ben Jones, Laverne Greenfield, my grandfather, and Initiative Newark.

I became interested in doing this project solely because of the TIME/LIFE "Day In America" project last year. I looked through the photographic journal to see what picture they placed there for New Jersey. The picture was not Newark!

I had become disappointed with the representation and the decadence the media had portrayed on television of Newark and it's people. So I set out, not trying to prove right or wrong, but to get Newarkers to become more aware of the opportunities that exist here already and to help strengthen the pride of Newark.

Eddie Johnson, Jr.
319 Park Avenue
Newark, N.J. 07107
(201) 483-8210



mansa k. mussa

Artist, writer, photographer, dancer, musician, cultural scientist.

Cultural scientist?

Yes. This young artist from Newark, New Jersey describes himself as a cultural scientist. Or as he explains it.

"The images artist present are indeed a reflection of the times we live in. Artists have a responsibility to not only study art but to teach others the skill they have. We study culture and apply what we know. Those of us who have chosen to be lifelong artists must understand the key role we play in developing the perceptions of society."

Raised in Newark, New Jersey, Mussa first exhibited his work in 1974 at the Newark Museum under the aegis of the Mayor's Teen Arts Festival. Last year's Photo-Retro exhibit at the Essex County Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs marked the artist's first one-man show, this year finds his work in the Harlem-On-Hudson exhibition in September. Next year he and artist Ben Jones will feature their perceptions of a recent trip to Cuba in an exhibit tentatively titled: Cuba, Si! See, Cuba!

A self-taught photographer, he is best known for his collection of Black Concert Dance photographs, which is among the collection of the Schomburg Center for Black Research and Culture in New York. He also dances with the International Afrikan-American Ballet while continuing work towards a degree in Media Arts/Television at Jersey City State College.





NEWARK PUBLIC LIBRARY

5 Washington Street, P.O. Box 630, Newark, N.J. 07101-0630 (201) 733-7800

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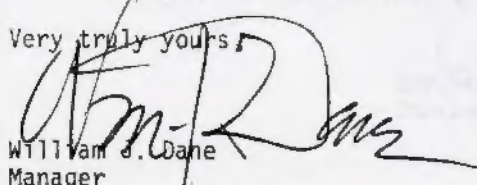
May 5, 1987

Eddie Johnson, Jr.
Mansa K. Musa
86 South 10th Street
Newark, N.J. 07107

Dear Eddie Johnson and Mansa Musa,

Thanks for your letter describing your special project of a photo-documentary covering "A Day In The Life of Newark". It sounds like a great idea and I would expect that a notable photographic show will result. Let's hope for good weather. Thanks for inviting me to be listed as a Supporter. I will be glad to assist in any way to boost our city and to spread the good word about photography, too.

Very truly yours,


William J. Dane
Manager
Art & Music Collection
and Keeper of Fine Prints

dc



COUNTY OF ESSEX

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, RECREATION
AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS
115 CLIFTON AVENUE
NEWARK, NEW JERSEY 07104
201 - 482-6400

NICHOLAS R. AMATO
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

CARMINE E. CAPONE
DIRECTOR

April 20, 1987

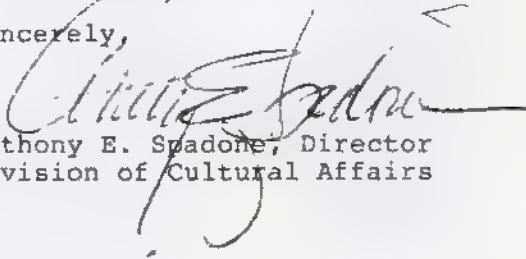
Mr. Eddie Johnson, Jr.
86 South Tenth Street
Newark, NJ 07107

Dear Eddie:

I would be very interested in your project "A Day in the Life, Newark". You should also contact Celeste Bateman who is with Cultural Affairs in Newark and Councilwoman Marie L. Villani at City Hall (733-6572 or 73). Give my name as a reference and those two people will give you support from the City.

Let me know of all further developments,

Sincerely,


Anthony E. Spadone, Director
Division of Cultural Affairs

AES:mc

Newark

Sharpe James
Mayor

Health & Human Services

Recreation / Cultural Affairs

920 Broad Street B23
Newark, New Jersey 07102-2677
201 733-6454

Roslyn L. Lightfoot
Manager

April 20, 1987

Eddie K. Johnson
Mansa K. Musa
86 So. 10th St.
Newark, NJ 07107

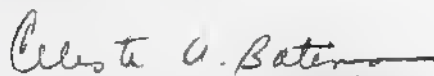
Dear Eddie/Mansa:

I am in receipt of your letter dated April 16, 1987 regarding the photo documentary "A Day in the Life, Newark." The project sounds most interesting!

As I informed Mansa some weeks ago when he brought this project to my attention, I am unable to attach my name in the capacity of Supervisor of Cultural Affairs to too many activities, but this project sounds worthwhile because of its impact on the City, and well-planned.

Please keep me abreast of your progress. Also, I will be interested to know where the exhibition will be held in Newark. My best to Debra Willis-Ryan.

Very truly yours,


Celeste A. Bateman, Supervisor
Cultural Affairs



Newark Public Library

5 Washington Street, P.O. Box 630, Newark, New Jersey 07101-0630 Thomas J. Alrutz, Director

May 15, 1987

**The Young, Gifted and
Black Lorraine Hansberry
Lecture Series**

James Brown, Coordinator
(201) 733-5411

Eddie Johnson Jr.
36 S. 10th Street
Newark, N.J. 07107

Dear Mr. Johnson,

Thank you for your recent letter inviting my participation as
a board member for your photographic documentary. I would be delighted
to serve in any way possible for such a noteworthy endeavor. Kindly
keep me informed. Thank you.

Sincerely,

James Brown
Principal Librarian
Black Studies

JB:dc

The Metropolitan Museum of Art

Fifth Avenue at 82nd Street, New York, N Y 10028 212-TR 9-5500

Eddie Johnson, Jr.
Mansa K. Musa
86 South 10th Street
Newark, N.J., 07107

Dear Messers Johnson and Musa:

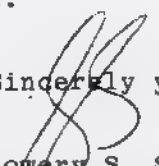
Thank you for your letters of April 15 and 16 regarding the photodocumentary exhibition you are organizing regarding Newark.

I would suggest that you contact Gary Reynolds, curatr at the Newark Museum to talk about ideas of organizing and touring the exhibition. I'm sure the people at the State Council on the Arts could help also.

I regret that I will not be able to be on your Board of Supporters, because in the wake of the New York Magazine articles, I've had so many such requests, I've decided it would be best to decline all. I also find myself under an extraordinary work load, and simply do not have the time.

Good luck with your project.

Sincerely yours,


Lowery S. Sims
Associate Curator
20th Century Art

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Mayor Sharpe James, left, and Jerome Premo, executive director of NJ Transit, look over a photograph by Mansa Musa on exhibit at Penn Station as a prelude to the Sept. 12 Newark Festival of People

Photo by Richard Rosenberg

People's fest nears

Plans under way for annual 'multi-ethnic' celebration

The third annual Newark Festival of People, a daylong event featuring celebrity entertainers, ethnic dancers, an international marketplace, antique auto show and other events, is scheduled for Sept. 12.

In announcing plans for the festival, Mayor Sharpe James, honorary chairman, called the event "a day for families to come together and enjoy

the food, art, music, costumes and culture that reflect the multi-ethnic population of New Jersey's largest city."

As a prelude to the city festival, James last week helped launch an art exhibit at Penn Station along with Jerome Premo, executive director of NJ Transit, and festival officials.

The exhibit features paintings and photography by two Newark-based ar-

tists, Eddie Johnson Jr. and Mansa Mussa, along with an arrangement of posters. It is on view in the six windows at the station's north end of the concourse level throughout August.

This year's event will also mark the 100th anniversary of the United Way. As part of the festivities, the United Way of Essex and West Hudson will hold a birthday party, complete with the launching of balloons.

Richard Lewin, executive vice president of United Way of Essex and West Hudson, said the organization will also have several display booths and distribute banners and other items to the public.

"This is a great place to celebrate our centennial," he added.

Estelle David, president of the Newark Festival of People Organization, said some 30 volunteers were coordinating activities.

"We expect more than 100,000 people will attend," she said.

David invited vendors or others interested in displaying their wares to contact the Newark Festival of People, P.O. Box 1055, Newark, NJ 07101.

Black graduates claim NJIT slights minorities

By FREDERICK W. BYRD

Newark City Council members yesterday heard representatives of New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT) respond to complaints from an NJIT alumni group that the school had been lax in recruiting minority faculty and students.

During yesterday's conference meeting, Henry Mauermeyer, an NJIT vice president, cited several recruitment programs, cooperation with city schools and attempts to get faculty. But he also admitted: "We want to make progress."

The Black Engineering and Technology Alumni Association (BETA) had charged the number of minority faculty and students at the school was unacceptably low. BETA President Rodney Jackson added: "Retention of minority students is even more important. We need minorities in technological industries."

Mauermeyer said of the 5,191 students at NJIT, 950 were black or Hispanic, "or 18 percent, whereas 15 percent of the college undergraduates in the state are minority."

He acknowledged the school has only five black faculty members out of 286, or less than 2 percent.

Defending the school, he said: "We are 13th nationally in the number of minority engineers we produce."

Councilman Donald Tucker said NJIT has a "unique relationship and responsibility to the black community of Newark" since the school displaced many black residents when it was built.

"I do not think these numbers are enough when you are in a city that is 60 percent minority," he said.

Council President Henry Martinez asked school and BETA officials to let the council know how the city could help resolve the problems.

Also at yesterday's council conference, two photographers from the city outlined plans to chronicle 24 hours in the city.

"We plan to do 'A Day in the Life of Newark.' Twenty-five to 30 photographers will go out on Sept. 10 and take pictures of entertainment, culture, economic development, neighborhoods, government, sports, education and religion," said Eddie Johnson, one of the organizers.

Mansa Mussa, the other photographer, added, "We want to take a slice of history and preserve it for all time."

Martinez ordered the city clerk to meet with the photographers and officials of the mayor's office to see how the city might help the project financially. ●

Also yesterday Dr. James Cowan, president of United Hospitals Medical Center, said plans to house AIDS patients at the Crippled Children's Hospital on Park and Clifton avenues had been dropped, at least until a study by the state Health Department on how to handle AIDS patients in Newark was complete.

Councilman Anthony Carrino said that study began last week and would be completed in October or November.

Councilman Donald Payne said while Newark did not want to be the "dumping ground for AIDS patients from all over the state, we have some responsibility to deal with our own citizens who are AIDS patients."

On another issue, the owner of the old Branford Theater at 11-23 Branford Place said the site was being converted into a 48,000-square-foot building that will house at least six retail stores.

Norman Friedman of Newark Norse Associates explained the firm had originally planned to renovate the old theater. "But that was so costly we found it was easier and faster to do the entire thing over." The theater is being demolished.

Friedman said the new, two-story building should be completed this winter.

Also yesterday the council voted to give the Newark Festival of People \$10,000 for general expenses.

Estelle David, chairman of the festival committee, said one problem the festival had was obtaining insurance.

"The city law department asked us to get \$1 million in liability coverage," she said. She added many carriers had refused to sell that amount, and one had requested an \$8,000 premium for the one-day affair.

"This is an example of the image we are trying to overcome," she said. "They just assume something awful will happen because it is in Newark."

The festival, scheduled for Sept. 12 in the Public Service Electric & Gas Co. plaza and in Military Park, will feature music, dancing, ethnic food, other entertainment and the city's first jazz festival.

On another issue Edna Bailey, a city council aide, outlined plans to clean the exterior granite of city hall and seal the windows and seams.

"All over the nation cities are fixing up their municipal buildings," Bailey said. "Our city hall is on the National Register of Historic Places and we should preserve this gem."

She noted exactly 88 years ago yesterday, on Aug. 4, 1899, city officials voted to construct the present city hall.

Mayor, NJ Transit chief open artwork exhibit at Penn Station



Photo by Richard Rosenberg

Newark Mayor Sharpe James, left, chats with Jerome Premo of NJ Transit and artist Eddie Johnson, right, whose work is on display in Penn Station

Newark Mayor Sharpe James and Jerome Premo, executive director of NJ Transit, yesterday opened an exhibit at Penn Station in Newark of paintings and posters for the Newark Festival of People.

The festival, featuring a variety of exhibits, ethnic foods and music, including a jazz festival, is scheduled for Sept. 12 and will be held in Military Park and Public Service Electric & Gas Co. Plaza.

The exhibit features artwork combining painting and photography by two Newark-based artists,

Eddie Johnson Jr. and Mansa Mussa, and a display of posters.

It is in six windows in the north end of the concourse level of the train station, and will be on view throughout August, according to NJ Transit officials.

James commented: "This festival is a unique opportunity for Newark to show off its cultural strengths. It is a festival for all the people and that is good for this city."